AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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Eight-Hour Day Is More Efficient Than 10 Hours, Says U. S. Report

Washington, May 15.—The eight-hour day is not only more efficient than the 10-hour day in industrial plants, but it is more economical, is the verdict of the United States public health service, whose experts have made a three-years' study of conditions and production in nine-teen factories of both classes.

The report is a complete vindication of organized labor's position in this question.

The plants surveyed were selected after a great deal of care. Each included a factory employing comparatively large number of workers as to make any conclusions reached applicable to a number of others. Other consideration was that the machinery, manufactured product and processes in the 10-hour plant should be sufficiently similar to the eight-hour plant to make a fair comparison.

The advantages are all in favor of eight-hour days, or shifts, as compared with the 10-hour day, and relate to maintenance of output, lost time and to industrial accidents.

Here are the main conclusions summarized:

Maintenance of output—The outstanding feature of the eight-hour shift is the maintenance of output. The outstanding feature of the 10-hour system is the decline of output.

Lost time—Under the eight-hour system men with almost full power begins and ends approximately on schedule, and lost time is reduced to a minimum. Under the 10-hour system work ceases regularly before the end of the shift and lost time is frequent.

Stereotyped output—Under the 10-hour system the workers seem to artificially restrict their efforts and to keep pace with the less efficient workers. Under the eight-hour day the output varies more nearly according to the individual capacity of the worker. That is: each is more likely to do his maximum rather than an "average day's work," regulated by a low standard.

Industrial accidents—This phase of the study is of particular interest. Optimistic accident rates are expected to vary directly with speed and production, owing to increased exposure to risk. But when fatigue is taken into consideration there is a marked modification of this rule. When there is a reduction of output due to fatigue there is a rise in the number of accidents; that is in the last hours of the 10 or 12-hour day, in spite of employers' efforts to do work, more accidents occur. If for any reason production is speeded up in the last hours when the workers are fatigued, the rise in the number of accidents shows the danger as to leave no room to doubt that the higher accident rate accompanies the speeding up of maintenance of output.

The full report is contained in public health bulletin No. 106, which is the first of a series to be published on the results of the public health service on the problems of industrial working capacity.

FREE EMPLOYMENT OFFICES.

Springfield, Ill., May 15.—A report by the general advisory board of the State free employment offices of the Illinois efficient bureau shows a encouragement to advocates of this system.

During the month 18,815 persons sought employment, and employers asked for a total of 25,246 persons and 17,921 persons were referred to times positions.

The statistics that there were 72 persons registered for every 100 positions open, and of the persons registered 79 out of every 100 were satisfactorily placed, on the other hand, an employer had to choose out of every ten of getting his full complement of workers from the number of three offices, as there were 11,457 persons placed in February as compared to requests for employes of 15,426 persons.

The men experienced in making selections of persons familiar with required duties may be judged by the number of persons actually placed. This number is 14,655, as compared with 17,921 persons who were referred to these positions.

On a percentage basis, this would be 82 persons out of every 100 were referred as being qualified for the work, were placed and were accepted by the employer.

ILLEGAL STRIKE DEFINED.

Springfield, Ill., May 16.—Dudley Taylor, representing Illinois manufacturers, before the state constitutional convention, favored the injunction writ in cases of "illegal strikes."

He was planed down by William J. Sneed, a delegate to the convention and president of the Illinois union, to define an illegal strike, and the attorney replied:

"I have spoken of one, I presume before you came in, as a sympathetic strike."

Mr. Sneed—"That was an illustration. I have not mentioned it as illegal strike in your own language."

Mr. Taylor—"An illegal strike is one in violation of contract or agreement, that might be one; it might be one for the purpose of committing an injury without any benefit involved the strike; that might be one for it, might be another.

Mr. Sneed—"Is that true; have you another in mind?"

Mr. Taylor—"I think of any more at the present time."

NO PRESS CENSORSHIP.

Birmingham, Ala., May 15.—The Birmingham News-Herald suggests that E. J. McCone of the non-union Buffalo Commercial is suffering from post-war jitters and that he is personal grievance against the printers. The Buffalo newspaper has complained to Washington that the printers exercise a censorship over newspapers, and that there are only two newspapers in the country that are free. To this statement the Ala-Herald says:

"That there are only four newspapers among the 2,000 journals published in the United States free from this influence will be surprising information to those publications that have been issuing their papers day after day, week after week, year after the least idea that the 'men upstairs' who set the type were telling them what should go into the type columns and what must be kept out."

CO-OPS. SHOW PROFIT.

Gillespie, Ill., May 16.—The quarterly report of this local co-operative society shows a dividend of ten cents on a dollar for the quarter ending June 30. This means that the 286 members of the local are receiving a dividend equal to the prevailing market price and then, after all charges were made, a return equal to 10 per cent on the amount of their purchases. This is the fifth quarter of the system of co-operation, which is urged by the C. of L. It differs from other systems in that it does not enter into price competition with privately owned stores, but the reduced prices are returned in the form of savings.

ELEVATOR STARTERS WIN.

New York, May 15.—Elevator starters and operators have won their fight against the protests of managers of buildings, who refused to believe the employes would stand together to enforce their demand for improved conditions. The strikers are affiliated with the A. F. of L. and were given every assistance by the A. F. of L. General Organizer Frosse and local trade unionists.

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Cleveland, Ohio, May 15.—The local street car company has dropped its demand for the non-union plan and platform employes have compromised their wage demand.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Erie, Pa., May 15.—Electrical workers for the city of Erie have established a rate of $1 an hour.

KANSAS IS O. K.

Washington, May 15.—While Governor Allen of Kansas is trouping through the east like a three-ring circus with his anti-strike industrial law and telling gullible folks about Kansas as danger to free enterprisement, United States Senator Capper of the same state told a different story when he spoke in this city. He said Kansas needs more children in the public schools as has fewer prisoners in the penitentiaries, and has a lower rate of petty crimes than other states. He also stated that 42 counties in, the state have a record of not one prisoner in jail for three years; that 49 counties have not had criminal prosecutions for more than two years; that in not a single bolshevik in the entire state.

Governor Allen ignores actual conditions and seems to think that his time spent in trying to boost he secures nomination for the vice presidency.

Wichita, Kan., May 15.—The Plain-dealer, published by the Wichita trades and labor assembly, prints the following call to black type across its first page:

"Wanted—To Remain one Governor Allen of the state of Kansas. Last heard from when Alec Howat was sent to jail about three weeks ago. He leaves full pay as an employee of this state while boosting his industrial court and militarism."

WORKERS CAN'T SPEAK.

Duluquene, Pa., May 15.—Mayor Crawford has issued a proclamation good his boast that no trade unionist will be permitted to speak within his jurisdiction. He has refused permits and when an attempt was made to hold a meeting without a permit several trade unionists were arrested. The meeting was dispersed by the state constabulary and a posse of steel mill private policemen. Two prominent trade unionists were arrested. They were taken to the jail, and forced to strip off their plates to the police.

The unionists were fined $10 or 10 days in jail. They refused to pay their fines.

This is a typical steel town. During the strike last year Mayor Crawford issued an edict against picketing. A city ordinance prohibits public meetings that are "detrimental to the public interest."

Trade unionists are determined to fight this attempt to make the stoppages of any trade union public meeting that is objectionable to the steel and iron interests.

BUSINESS MEN ARE BIGOTS.

New York, May 14.—"Self-created bigots" is the term applied to members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States by the New York Evening World in discussing a refusal of the recent convention of those business men to listen to Matthew Woll, vice president of the A. F. of L., to give reasons for opposition to the Kahn "anti-strike" law.

"Governor Allen missed the opportunity of a life time," said the Evening World, "when he failed to attend the meeting of the chamber of business men.

"The discourtesy and intolerance was all the more glaring because Governor Allen was present and addressed the chamber. Perhaps the fortunate opportunity to read a lesson in intolerance to the World's bigots was refused to discuss the plan that labors a group of self-revealed bigots, we would have strength defended Mr. Woll's right to be heard."

STRIKERS ARE ENJOINED.

Chicago, May 15.—Striking clerks "and all others" are enjoined by Judge Carpenter from picketing interfering in any manner with the business of Kiss Brothers' cooperage company.

Any effort to induce persons to stay away from this store is looked upon by the judge as a boycott, intentional, conspiracy and unAmerican. Acts of picketing must be stopped, and the New Majority, official organ of the Chicago federation of labor, in commenting on the case suggest that this cheap wage concern is opposed to organized labor.

OPPOSE POVERTY PLEA.

Washington, May 14.—New York bankers are opposing the railroads' demand that they be loaned $500,000,000 by the government to purchase freight and passenger cars. The bankers fear that a further extension of loans will affect the credit financing of the roads. They suggest that the roads try to help themselves. Many of the stronger roads do not need a loan, it is claimed.

IRON MOLDERS WINNING.

Duluth, May 15. — Iron molders are winning their strike which was begun when a refusal of employers to pay 99 cents an hour.

THE UNION OR NON-UNION SHOP, WHICH?

By FRANK MORRISON,
Secretary American Federation of Labor.

The union shop is democracy in industry. The right of employes to bargain collectively, to have a voice in working conditions, is recognized. In the non-union shop this democracy is unknown. Paternalism and autocracy is the rule. The employer is a dictator. He is the sole judge of working conditions, dictates hours and wages and tells his employes they have the privilege to quit their employment. If the worker quits, and suffering in his family and children results, the employer calls this "freedom of contract."

The employer dictates to the term "non-union" shop, so he refers to his shop as an "open" shop. This is misleading and is intended to deceive. The inconsistency of the so-called "open" shop employer is shown when he says he makes no distinction between union and non-union employes and then fills his plant with spies to report any union activity on the part of his employes discussing the value of trade unionism.

These employers know that in this age of organization it is unwise to announce that they are opposed to trade unions. So they employ just enough trade unionists to serve as a blind, and yet, at the same time, they oppose trade unions, but they do not employ enough trade unionists to dispute the employer's absolute and complete control over working conditions. If these organized workers advocate trade unionism they are discharged.

The unions hold that organized labor sets the standards for workers and fixes the rate of wages, and that all workers under its mantelship bring these standards as it is for all citizens to pay taxes.

The so-called "open" shop employer would not approve a citizen who refuses to pay taxes, but he does favor his employes shirking his duties to the "open" shop. The reason for the latter position is apparent. The employer profits by this shirking, which enables him to set wages, hours and working conditions. But more than this he retains complete power over his employes.

He may arrange welfare societies if he desires. He may have a pension system for those employes who serve him faithfully, and who he just as faithfully abstains from trade union membership. He may conduct a system of athletics and recreation for his employes and provide them with model homes, but above and beyond all these there is no element of democracy in his plan. He denies his employes collective bargaining, and therefore contends that the lives of these workers. He sets their living standards. He orders. His workers accept what he gives them, and they enjoyed by union shop employes.

Non-union shop employes accept the wages he pays, or he is displeased, but they do it at the price of their liberty. Their grievances are subject to the good will of the employer. He may remedy them, he may do as he pleases, he is "good boss" and not because his employes stand up as men and demand justice.

If the grievance is not adjusted the employes must accept the working conditions or quit. If an individual quits, that is nothing to the employer.

Fundamentally there is no difference between the non-union shop employer and the slave owner before the Civil war. The slave owner and the slave owner are absolute. Both provided sustenance for their workers. The slave owner prided himself on being "a good master." The non-union employer says: "I provide my employes."

In neither case was the slave or is the employe permitted to protect themselves.

In the union shop this autocratic rule does not exist. Here, the employes have a collective voice in determining wages, hours and working conditions. The union employer is compelled to deal with the employes "collective bargaining, and therefore contends that the lives of these workers. He sets their living standards. He orders. His workers accept what he gives them, and they enjoyed by union shop employes.

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AMERICA'S WAR-TIME PROFITEERS HAVE SORDID RECORD OF GREED

Washington, May 15.—During the last four years the profits of corporations, exclusive of royalties, patent rights, franchises, stock dividends or other forms of camouflaging, cost each family of five in the United States an average of $1,256.

The above is one of the statements contained in a survey of corporation profiteering, during and since the war, by Dr. Jotte Lauck, economist and secretary of the war-time national war labor board.

The survey is a sordid tale of greed and grab and was prepared for the railway shop employes and railroad brotherhoods in their wage movement before the United States railroad labor board.

The survey is the result of eight months' research and supports the contention of organized labor that wage increases are not responsible for increased prices, but that the wage advance has been an effect, and not a cause, of soaring living costs.

It is shown that the combined corporation profits of 1916 and 1917 is set profits approximately $4,896,000,000 more per year during the three years prior to that period. The profits during the years 1916-17-18 constituted a tax of $256 a year on every family of five throughout the country. The iron and steel and coal industries $3,000,000,000 clear profit in excess of the pre-war profit average was exacted during the three war years. This constituted a tax of $1,000 on every man, woman and child in the United States.

During the three war-years the average profits of all corporations within the country, after paying taxes, more approximated 26 per cent on their capital stock. These increased profits, not due to increased production, resulted from these corporations, controlling product essential to daily life, made profits sufficient to amortize the cost of their entire capital stock within a period of slightly more than three years.

The disclosures do not tell the full story of profiteering, since corporations conceal the full measure of their profits by charging off as "necessary" excessive depletions for depletion and depreciation, payment of excessive salaries, fees and royalties and rebates.

The survey exhibits that labor costs is the initial influence in forcing increases in the cost of living. It is stated that wage increases have lagged behind price increases; that prices have increased 100 per cent after which workers have no control; that labor is at a disadvantage worse off than it was before the war; that in the distribution of wealth labor is at a disadvantage in receiving a smaller proportion than it did before the war, while capital, in the form of profits, interest and rent, is receiving a very much larger proportion than capital in the war. Referring on such a scale, so increase has taken place in labor.

It is shown that of the $2.50 increase in the price of a pair of shoes labor received 9 cents of the cents. Increases in the equal price of coal show that labor receives no great as increases in labor cost.

The survey is based on financial statements of the corporations themselves, federal income tax reports, reports of government industrial bodies, such as the tariff commission, the federal trade commission, the war trade board, the bureau of domestic commerce, various reports, studies and statements by trade agencies and economists and the financial manuals of Poor and Moody.

"Viewed as a pure economic proposition the profit is excessive, to say the least," said Mr. Lauck, "no sane man can fail to realize that the present system is a dangerous one. Profits reached in 1916; and in the light of the public quotations of stocks, the unprejudiced citizen can fail to place the burden of the responsibility upon the statements by trade bodies and bankers who have seized upon the opportunity afforded by the war to act war as the means of aggrandizement, such as the world has never before known."

TRICKY ANTIS FAIL.

San Francisco, May 15.—The board of education's tricky anti-trade union declaration has failed and the teachers, who are affiliated with the A. F. of L., are standing the test of the efforts of disrupters, who have not the nerve to come out in the open. The board declared that the teachers "individually and collectively, as well as as a body, are prohibited from forming, joining or maintaining any organization affiliated with any body, association or organization having power to dictate to the board."

The board members then awaited the announcement that the teachers had individually resolved; but this did not happen.

"We don't mean any defiance," said the teachers. "We have a contract with the board of education, and as the A. F. of L. or our federation can not call us on strike, the board of education must have in mind some other party."

The board, in its tricky and shabby-minded individual, who out express their thoughts without pulling the cowardly trick of attacking unionists and cause the entire San Francisco labor movement to mass up their intellectual junk.

SHIP YARD STRIKERS STICK.

San Francisco, May 15.—With the assistance of the local trades council yard strikers, who have been out for eight months, report prospects are brighter than at any time since the ship yard managers refused to live up to an agreement that they agreed to. The strikebreakers are leaving the plants for activities been employed, and it is stated that there are catching employments that open up during the summer months. The companies announce that ships are being produced, but the strikers report that there are no new orders.

The yards are completely disorganized, and every day that the managers postpone an inevitable settlement increases the number of strikers who are leaving this vicinity for other localities increases.

COOPERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, May 15. — The new wage scale of Coopers' union No. 126 has been signed by the local. The maximum demand was $45, but a compromise was affected.

Rahway, N. J., May 15.—A wage increase of $2 a week has been secured by Coopers' union No. 145.

IRON WORKERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., May 15.—Wages are increased from $1 an hour to $1.25 an hour by local No. 18, Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, iron workers. The work week is 44 hours, and the men have had an eight-hour day, with double time for overtime.

BAKERS RAISE WAGES.

New York, May 15.—Bakers' union No. 1 has secured a 16 per cent wage increase. The rate for foreman is $40 a week.

BIG LABOR TURN OVER.

Washington, May 15.—"While the government is urging private industry to employ more labor, the most costly labor turn over, it should sweep its own house first," said Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer National Federation of Office Clerks.

"There are approximately 8,000 employes in the New York post office," said this trade unionist. "In the past year 10,000 employes have been appointed temporarily in this office, and 10,000 have quit because of intolerable conditions. This is a labor turn over of 200 per cent, and the cost of 'breaking in' these men and women would test the bank roll of a Rockefeller or the steel trust. But the post office officials assure the public that this department is a money maker. This is the only department that makes money, but every individual is paying for this economy. Skilled employes are quitting the service; the technical must accept a lower living standard the public patronizing the telegraph company and the express companies for quick delivery system, and post office officials have no time on this demoralization like Nero of old who fiddled while Rome burned."

"The department head of the New York post office is known by subversive methods for workers, who are to paid 80 cents an hour without having to pass the civil service examination. Yet, these employes have worked for years in this post office and are being paid 41 cents an hour."

URGE MOTHER PROTECTION.

Washington, May 15.—Not one day in the year, but every day would be mothers' day if adequate measures to protect the health of mothers and babies, in the opinion of United States children's bureau.

In 1918 there died in this country, an average of more than 63 mothers and 1,000 clear profit, because there are not enough prenatal clinics, public health nurses and hospitals to make care of maternity possible for prospective mothers out of 2,973, in investigations made by the children's bureau, it was found that 1,000 mothers died because they had not been taught how or why they should take care of themselves, and 1,000 not able to pay doctors and nurses to advise them.

The bureau calls attention to the Sheppard-Towner bill, now pending in congress, which provides for the nursing and medical care of mothers and instructions in the hygiene of maternity.

P. O. WORRIES 'EM.

New York, May 15.—The agitation for a pension for postal employes to save the post service is attracting attention.

The New York Times says:

"It appears that the great mass of employes who have been generally underpaid that the service threatened with disintegration.

"The postal employes are announced a financial triumph, but when it comes down to brass tacks the 3-cent to the 2-cent basis. The wartime increase was a tax imposed without revenue, and suffered from those who profited by the service. But the increase proved a fiasco. When the just and inevitable increase of salary are granted it will be found to be equally logical and economical pay more than double.

"The time has come, nevertheless, to cease playing for statistical results with the department and down to business. Whatever the cost the postal service must be saved."

BURNS IS AT OLD GAME.

New York, May 15.—William J. Burns, the "great" detective, and his international detective agency, is affiliated with the New York Watchmen's union, affiliated with the A. F. of L., he admitted to a man who will work a 10-hour day and for less wages than the union scale, and who will be paid by his being installed by the E. F. Muller detective agency.

Trade unionists say these agencies are especially vindictive against the union with the department of justice, which has destroyed an easy graft, they do not discriminate." The unionists refuse to bite.

WIN UNION SHOP.

Toronto, Ontario, May 15.—The Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers' union has secured a union shop agreement and the minimum scale of 75 cents an hour.

STEAM FITTERS GAIN.

Baltimore, May 15.—Organized steam fitters and helpers have polled wages to $1 an hour for the fitters and $0.80 for the helper.

MRS. COMPERS IS DEAD.

Washington, May 15.—Mrs. Sophia Julian Gompers died in this city yesterday morning after a long illness, death of Mrs. Gompers, nearly two years ago, Mrs. Gompers never recovered from the shock of her husband's death.

Mrs. Gompers was 69 years of age. She was born in London and came to America when in years of age. She married Samuel Gompers in 1867. She was the mother of six children, two of whom died after they attained young manhood and womanhood. The surviving children are married—Frank, a barber, a granite cutter; Alexander, a cigar maker, and Samuel, a printer.

The remains were interred in New York. Those in attendance at the funeral were: Delegation of a large number of trade unionists, among them were officers of the A. F. of L. executive council and officers of national and international trade unions.

These workers all knew "Mamma" Gompers. Her kindness and interest in the social life of the labor movement, she was married—Frank, a granite cutter; Alexander, a cigar maker, and Samuel, a printer.

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WANT DYE MONOPOLY.

Washington, May 15.—Sensational charges were made in the senate that the tariff commission, created and an English concern have divided the world's dye market between them, and that the American dye stuffs protection bill would benefit the interests of world monopoly in the trade.

Senator Lenroot, who was stated that the duPonts were to be interested in the United States and Central and South America, with the rest of the world controlled by the English firm, two controlled equally by the two parties, to sell the dye stuffs. The two companies were to pool all patents, inventions, etc., and the profits would be kept in certain proportions, turned over to them, and return would pay the English company $1,000,000 a year.

It was charged that the pending bill "is in the interest of this monopoly, and that it was framed, introduced and pressed in that interest." Against all provisions for licenses and embargoes, the whole plan depends on securing this large profit, Senator Lenroot said, and the bill should be rejected as infamous."

TO FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH.

Louisville, May 15.—The Kentucky state federation of labor is arranging to test the constitutionality of the recently enacted criminal sedition law which Governor Morrow has signed, and which, in a sense, "is a clear attempt to fix and define the limits of speech, and in my mind a direct blow at the right of free speech."

This is supposed to protect the government against violence. It also empowers any constable or peace officer to break up any meeting that he believes is liable to violence and disorder.

The governor acknowledged the law is unconstitutional, and attempted to veto the bill, but changed his mind with office by the statement that "if he vetoed the courts would remedy the matter."

ANARCHY IS AMARCHY.

Washington, May 15.—In discussing the idea of an anarchistic party held for deportation, Assistant Secretary of Labor Post was asked by Congressman Campbell, chairman of the house rules committee:

"Do you think that the people of this country were like this man, do you believe there would be any agitation or government at all?"

The labor secretary replied:

"I think it likely that no would not have, but I would couple with that the statement that the agitation would exist if certain business people were in the majority in this country."

BLACKSMITHS ARE OUT.

Fresno, Cal., May 15.—A 100 per cent strike of blacksmiths in this city was called to enforce their demands. The strike was precipitated when the new scale, calling for a wage scale, that they would not work for the union or quit their employment.

MACHINISTS REDUCE HOURS.

Erie, Pa., May 15.—Machinists employed by the Erie Forge and Steel company have secured the eight-hour day, with time and a half for overtime, and a rate of 75 cents an hour. The company has 125 machinists.

WANT ONE MILLION.

Toronto, Ontario, May 15.—"It becomes clearly apparent, as the session of the legislature continues, that the idea of a million workers meant has gone," says the Industrial Banner.

"The encouragement of progressive legislation with the consent and approval of the representatives of political parties in the house is more than doubled than the enactment of progressive legislation by a government lacking the support of its political opponents."

FUR WORKERS BUY HOME.

New York, May 15.—Four furriers have purchased a home for $30,000 from the fur workers' union.

Political Party Worship Replaced By Labor's Non-Partisan System

Washington, May 15.—The trade union movement, with its 40-year old demand for political non-partisanship, has dealt partisan hard blows.

The A. F. of L. advocated non-partisanship when this theory was a source of endless amusement to so-called "practical" men, but today our labor leaders are adopting this method. As a consequence, party bolts and divisions are the exception, and party discipline and stock in trade to party obedience. The American political party system, with its rigid discipline and party appeal, no longer exists. The difficulty in maintaining party regularity is constantly increasing as citizens insist on independent voting.

This independence is indicated by the recent decisions of the C. of L. program of non-partisanship. Nearly 3,000 locals are already reporting to the congress through 50 central bodies and local unions. Hundreds of these have sent resolutions of senators and congressmen from the A. F. of L. national committee, legislative, executive and local bodies of a "square deal" for labor, regardless of party. Congressmen "in not of the "forgetting" kind. The records of these lawmakers need no publicity appeal; the records speak for themselves, being supplied to the organized labor cities in the form of recommendations to use their ballots in support of the friends and against the election of men who have proven hostile to progress, humanity and justice.

Trade unionists are becoming known defenders of the cause of labor.

The trend of the times is distinctly non-partisan. The trade union movement has established this principle in a way to carry agitation. The A. F. of L. fought for this principle for two reasons—that, because it guarantees sufficient freedom to every member, and secondly, because non-partisanship is the most effective policy.

This is shown by labor's gains under the new plan and the fact that other groups of citizens now resort to this method.

The A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee has issued hundreds of thousands of letters and pieces of literature in the last two months. Like a wave, the non-partisan sentiment is rolling on among the organized workers and the farmers. Many have attacked the anti-union movement that was formerly apparent in politics. While it is customary for anti-union office seekers and their friends to use the expression, at election times, there is always a group of "white sepulchers" and hypocritical intolerants who publicly condemn the men and women of labor, who have been the most loyal allies of a "square deal" for labor, and who have been the "forgetting" kind. The records of these lawmakers need no publicity appeal; the records speak for themselves, being supplied to the organized labor cities in the form of recommendations to use their ballots in support of the friends and against the election of men who have proven hostile to progress, humanity and justice.

WHY MINERS ARE IDLE.

Indianapolis, May 15.—The United Mine Workers' formal protests against the Black Diamond, a trade journal, which charges the striking miners to "big coal." This publication blames the coal miners for present conditions and the Black Diamond publication says:

"The coal miners are rendering just now the Black Diamond would feel if it were to take a gallon of the hottest with its readers in matters dealing with the coal miners. The Black Diamond is the publication responsible in its opposition to everything that has set the pace for the miners that it apparently is unable to see the truth.

"The Black Diamond knows that the coal miners of this country are not fools. They have to do work for them to do. They are not fools because they wish to lead.

"They do not want to lead. They want to work. They are willing to work. They are willing to work, but the mines are not in operation. When the mines do not operate the miners are idle. This is a business title. That is not the fault of the miners. It is the fault of the men who control the mines. The men who control the mines do not dig out the coal that anyone could possibly use. They do not.

"All the operators need to do to make the miners of America prosperous is to operate their mines and give the miners a chance to work."

CAUSES FOR UNREST.

New York, May 15.—The causes for industrial unrest were discussed by Frank Vanderlip, president of the hydraulic steel corporation in a speech in this city.

Mr. Vanderlip said this business men was a refreshing contrast to the "ignorance of the labor leaders and leadership" and "education" in certain quarters. He said there should be a change in the very near future.

"In Oregon, where the Chaho gang of thugs have been running amuck for years, the state, with about 500,000 people, the right cost of living; the general belief that nothing is to be gained by agitation, and that though the war has ended, Gompers, this, and the speaker, with Gompers dog dragged at his heels—the man who can't think favorably of anything that is American.

The speaker's views reflec his attitude of mind, which he says was as an unskilled laborer in steel mills, coal mines, railroad yards and ship yards.

SENDING OUT RECORDS.

Washington, May 15.—Reactionary politicians who have sought to make partisan political policy is most logical. This policy is a great white light, which is being turned on the makers.

The A. F. of L. program makes it possible. The organized labor is know of records that are too often concealed. These records are forwarded to every local and central labor union, and the information contained represented by the law makers and their friends, who have made efforts can be depended upon to send their vote in the interest of democracy and humanity.

The latest records that have been sent are: Senators of Illinois, Senators Wadsworth of New York and Watson of Indiana. These will be sent to every local in the state and every central body in the two states at their meeting from now until election day.

BIG PROFITS IN OIL.

New York, May 15.—Last year's profits of the Standard Oil company of New York were equal to $57.5 a share of stock, after deducting all expenses. In the preceding year, during the year the company paid dividends of $20 a share, which now amounts to over $23,000,000.

At the close of last year the company's surplus was $142,523,472. In 1914 the surplus was $46,015,577.

New York, May 15.—Last year the Texas Company, Texas Oil, made a profit of $9.81 on every $10 share of stock, which after paid dividends there remained a surplus of over $1,000,000.

MORE SWITCHMEN UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 15.—During the past month the Switchmen's Union of North America has chartered lodges in the following towns: Massillon and Canton, Ohio, Steubenville, Ohio, Kansas City, Mo., Joplin, Mo., and Amarillo, Texas.

METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 15.—Sheet metal workers in this city have been organized and can 4 hours but their employer is contributing 100.